

Town of
Matthews
North Carolina
Matthews Veterans Advisory Committee



Matthews Veterans Advisory Committee

Remote Meeting

July 1st, 2020

Minutes

All participants met remotely

Chairperson Tom Cannon called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. It was noted the meeting was held remotely due to social distancing requirements of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Mecklenburg County Stay at Home Order.

Quorum: Seven of ten members were present: Peter Chryst, Jim Thurman, Larry Stawicki, Jack Santaniello, Doug Rose, Charleen Thompson, and Tom Cannon. Not present were Fred Baylor, James Fuller and Michael Vento. Getting ourselves into Zoom is getting easier due to the help by Lori Canapinno and Tonya McGovern who were also present. We welcomed Tonya as MVAC Town Liaison and Doug Rose, a newly appointed member to MVAC

Minutes Approval: The Minutes for the June 3^r, 2020 were approved unanimously with the Larry Stawicki making the motion.

Unfinished Business:

1. Queen City Honor Flight has been cancelled through the end of 2020. When they decide to conduct the Flight safely, they will let us know. It was noted that MVAC had donated \$900 for the Flight which covers the next one.

2. US Service Flag project as we proposed it and the Town Board had approved is now cancelled.

a. MVAC approached Joshua Dials of Duke Energy, who owns the lamp posts, for permission to use them for the US service Flags during the week of Veterans Day and Memorial Day. He replied that the posts were not designed to handle the load of the 3 x 5' flags. We are not allowed to use them. This was a total surprise to us. The Chair wrote an After Action Report on it for some lessons



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learned for further endeavors. The Mayor expressed his disappointment to the Chair and said it is time to formulate a Plan B.

b. Larry commented he had seen US Colors flown from what appeared to be telephone poles on Trade Street and raised the question if they could be used for the Service Flags. Peter Chryst said he would take that on board and begin an exploration.

3. The plans for FY-2021 were reviewed once again.

a. MVAC Trifold: Larry reported that the names on the front will be removed in the updated edition. The phone number for the Town will replace it. Inside the scan code for cell phones for events would be replaced by access to Atrium Health Aaron Harpers veteran's activities, Mecklenburg County VSO, and Veterans Bridge Home. There were no needed changes to the MVAC Ten Reasons to Hire a Veteran.

4. Treasurers report. With the cancelling of the US service Flag project, we have those funds available for carrying into FY-2021 which are \$3418.45. In addition we have the grant from the Town of \$2500.

5. Veteran of the Year: James Munoz who led this program so well for the past two years, has moved from Matthews and resigned. The Chair asked Doug Rose to lead this for us. He agreed and Peter will be a resource. In part he should use American Legion 235 and VFW Post in Indian Trail as contacts. We will provide him the leaders of those two organizations. MVAC still has the recommendation package for CW Perkins from 2019, who was not selected by Mayor Bailey but we were told by him to hold the package to be considered in 2020.

6. Colors Flown for a Day. We need a bit more information on timing for each and how to do it is needed. There is plenty of time to do that. Charleen leads.

New Business:

1. Post 235 has a Stumptown Memorial project they are leading. MVAC was asked to fund the US Service Flags and poles for it. The cost is about \$866. A motion was made and seconded. The vote was unanimous to approve it. The

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details of does MVAC provide a check to Post 235 or does MVAC make the purchases from Condor directly was raised. The town attorney should give us guidance. Jack will propose to him via the Town.

2. Election of Officers for MVAC. Fred Baylor was nominated to be the new Chair. Unfortunately, Fred was not present so we delayed the vote for Chair until August. Larry Stawicki was elected as the Vice-Chair. Jack Santaniello was elected to remain as the Treasurer. Charleen Thompson was elected to be the Secretary. If her work schedule from time to time prevents her from taking the notes, that task will fall to the Chair. Tom Cannon agreed to remain in the Chair position for several months until a new Chair can be elected. Hopefully that will be Fred.

3. We have not heard from James Fuller since March. The Chair will call him.

4. Next meeting is August 5th.

5. The meeting was adjourned by vote at 8:05PM

R/ 
Tom Cannon

Chair MVAC